

DEMOCRATIC CLUBS.

Having been requested to prepare a form of constitution for the government of Democratic Clubs, we submit the following for the consideration of our fellow-citizens. There can be no controversy in regard to the main portion of the constitution herewith appended, and we trust that no portion of it will meet with effective opposition. We are aware, however, that the clause respecting independent candidates will provoke discussion in some quarters, and we think it advisable to meet this discussion now rather than at a later stage of the campaign. It is idle and foolish to organize the Democracy in Anderson County, unless we propose to win a victory at the polls in November next, and the measure of that victory will be gauged by the success or failure of its nominees. Hence, with the strong probability before us that the common enemy will seek to weaken the Democracy by encouraging the ambition of independent candidates, it must be understood at the outset that the Democratic Clubs are organized to meet this identical chicanery of the Radicals. No man with common sense will pretend that, in the ensuing campaign, an independent candidate will venture into the field against the regular nominees of the Democrats, unless he has the assurance, express or implied, that the Radical will be manipulated by the Radical leaders in his favor. It becomes the duty, therefore, of Democratic Clubs to make a proper beginning, and as this issue will be forced upon us, provided the Radicals can secure the consent and connivance of office-seekers, every citizen who is moved by patriotism and good intentions will perceive the necessity for an uncompromising and inflexible platform in this respect. Already, the boast has been made that the Radicals will support better Democrats in the next election than the regular nominees of the Democratic party, and this means nothing more nor less than that the tactics of previous campaigns will be resorted to, in order to divide the Democratic vote that they may ultimately conquer. The people are warned against the flattering promises and delusive snares set by Radical leaders, and if they are not satisfied with their experiments in this line, naught that we can say will impress them, but the important truth that their only safety lies in firm adherence to their party. We append the form of constitution prepared for the consideration of Democratic Clubs:

ARTICLE I. The name of this organization shall be "The Democratic Club."

ART. 2. The officers of the Club shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, and an Executive Committee of five members, who shall serve for such term as may be fixed by resolution; and any vacancies for these officers shall be filled by an election at the first meeting after the same is announced.

ART. 3. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to collect and disseminate information, and to advise the members, with regard to such policy as in their judgment shall best subserve and promote the general good of the country.

ART. 4. The President, with the sanction of a majority of the Executive Committee, shall have power to call extra meetings of the Club, and one-third of the total membership of the Club shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ART. 5. A regular meeting of the Club shall be held on the Saturday in every month.

ART. 6. Any male citizen of the vicinity may become a member of the Club by signing the constitution, and pledging himself to sustain and support to the best of his ability all nominations made by the Democratic party, either in State, County or municipal elections.

ART. 7. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to prepare a list of names, residence and occupation of each member, and also a complete record of the names and residences of all voters within the township.

ART. 8. That the members of this Club pledge themselves to each other and to the Democratic party, and one-third of the total membership of the party for all offices, whether National, State, County or Municipal, and will discountenance every effort on the part of individuals to distract our counsels and divide the vote upon independent candidates, whom we will regard hereafter as giving aid and comfort to our opposition.

ART. 9. Any article of this constitution may be altered or amended upon one week's notice by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

WILLIAMSTON TOWNSHIP.—The citizens of Williamson Township who are in sympathy with the Democratic party are respectfully invited to meet at Williamson on Saturday, 5th of February, at eleven o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a Democratic Club. Messrs. B. F. Brown, W. A. McCorkie, J. H. Gaines, H. I. Epting, C. E. Horton and J. E. Pickle have been requested to extend the call, and secure the attendance of every voter who is interested in correct and honest government in South Carolina.

MARTIN TOWNSHIP.—The citizens of Martin Township are respectfully invited to meet at Reuben Clinckscale's Mill on Saturday, 5th of February, to take action in regard to the formation of a Democratic Club, and all persons favorable to the promotion of genuine reform in the government of South Carolina are invited to attend. Messrs. J. A. Cowan, John O. Hawkins, John S. Smith, Newton Parker, James A. Drake, Wm. Pruiett and James A. King are designated to extend the call, and further the objects of the proposed meeting.

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP.—The citizens of Hopewell Township are requested to meet at Hopewell Church on Saturday next, 29th of January for the purpose of organizing a Democratic Club. Messrs. M. B. Williams, L. D. Stringer, R. H. Anderson, A. M. Guyton, W. A. Neal and Ira L. Moseley are requested to extend the notice of the proposed meeting, and bring out every man who desires the welfare of his country.

SAVANNAH TOWNSHIP.—The citizens of Savannah Township favorable to the organization of a Democratic Club are respectfully invited to meet at Holland's

Store on Friday, 4th of February, at eleven o'clock. Messrs. A. M. Holland, A. N. Sanders, D. F. Sandler, George Stevenson, Levi Burris, J. H. Jones and H. B. Major are requested to extend the call, and urge a full attendance on the day specified.

OUR COLUMBIA CORRESPONDENCE.

COLUMBIA, Jan. 24th, 1876.
DEAR EDITORS: The last time I wrote you all was in a turmoil, and ignorance, prejudice and color made up their minds "to rule or ruin" this glorious old Commonwealth. The Legislature, however, adjourned just as they were at the height of their wrath, and they went home among their constituency, who hadn't had their patriotism so fired; and were met with anything but enthusiasm and approval. These secondaries who voted for Moses and Whipper mistook, for once, the encroaching arrogance of the masses of negroes, and the patient endurance of the white people, and from both classes they were rebuked; by the one class on account of fear, by the other, because they had made up their minds that such unbridled racialism must and should be checked. So they reorganized on the 18th instant sadder and wiser men. In order to get the negro legislators as a class to perpetrate such outrages, it is necessary that they should be away from the people for some time, and be constantly appealed to by these leaders, their prejudices aroused and their passions excited, and when these objects are attained, they act like and resemble a mob, and only under such excitement will they dare to consummate the wicked and nefarious designs of these master spirits of corruption and insolence. You remember they were breathing threats of impeachment against the Governor, and eternal ruin to the Democrats just before Christmas. Well, they came back as mild as lambs, and as inoffensive.

Gov. Chamberlain vetoed Leslie's bill removing the Court House from Barnwell, C. H. to Blackville, and Leslie breathed eternal vengeance. He spoke on the measure two hours and a half, and appealed to the lowest prejudice and passion of the negro. He swore Chamberlain had sold out to the Democrats; that the Democrats had determined to carry the next election by the knife, the bullet and the rope; that not one of them would ever sit on that floor as a Representative again, if Chamberlain was not stopped in his flight to the Democracy; that arrangements had been made to bring troops from Georgia and North Carolina to run the negroes from the polls, &c. &c., the vilest sland and lying ever listened to. But his effort proved abortive, and notwithstanding Elliott, Humbert, Keith, Simkins and Whipper helped him, the common negroes had just come from home and had not forgotten the sentiment of the people; so they refused to pass it over the Governor's Veto. Another reason of success was that only 96 members took their seats that day, and out of that 31 were Democrats, so we only needed two Republican votes to sustain the veto!

Next, Your Honor (V) Whipper rose to "a question of privilege." He devoted himself to the abuse of "Chamberlain as an individual" and "the News and Courier as a journal." I shall not give you any portion of his speech; it was too disgraceful much of it to be published, and I think the paper doing so might be closed up under the law of Congress "for the suppression of obscene literature."

Suffice it to say that it was the most ignorant, insolent and malicious utterance I ever heard, and yet men who make some slight pretences to decency, elect him to fill a position on the bench. Can they, will they, be forgiven? Let manhood, honor and civilization only answer the question. There appears to be a combination, headed by Nash, Elliott and Whipper, to Africanize South Carolina, and the white republicans begin to quake before their aggressive strides.

Cavender, a gentleman of New England extraction, was appointed by the Governor as one of the Commissioners on the Big Bonanza. He required one of the claimants of the little bonanza to pay him 25 per cent. in cash before he would have the warrants drawn for the claim, and Gov. Chamberlain hearing of it has cut off his official head, which is all well enough, but he should be more particular in his appointments.

The most infamous swindle that has turned up this session is a bill "to provide for the payment of the Bills of the Bank of the State." It proposes to levy a tax of two mills for each of the next two years, and pay them dollar for dollar. The first registered are to be paid in full, and those who cannot register among the first, will be the only ones to lose anything, as the taxes will not be sufficient to pay all. The fraud in this arrangement is very patent; these secondaries have four hundred thousand dollars ready to register the moment the bill is passed, and the honest holders of these bills will never get a dime. This bill has been read a first time, and there is some possibility of its passing; if they can raise the cash to pay for votes, it is sure, but the average radical legislator has learned that being bribed on a credit is not very remunerative, and the hope is that the founders of this scheme are too poor to put up the money. Bless goodness! they are getting harder up every day. I might here read a moral lecture on the old adage that "a fool and his money are soon parted," but I desist.

The bill I introduced to punish frauds in municipal elections has at last passed the Senate, and I trust it will put a stop to any further illegal voting in town elections.

Attorney General Melton will not resign until after the Legislature adjourns, so that Gov. Chamberlain can appoint his successor, instead of the Legislature electing, and it is thought he will appoint Col. F. W. McMaster, an eminent lawyer of the Columbia bar.

Brayton (Rep.) introduced the following: "That the resolution adopted last winter depriving J. K. Blackburn, reporter of the News and Courier, of the privileges of the House be rescinded." This brought out the spleen of several of the Solons, and they were bitter to the extreme; but finally they agreed that the aforesaid Blackburn should be restored to his former position of honor and dignity if he would apologize to the injured innocence, which he did in the following questionable manner: "I did make such a charge it is true, and I am sorry for it." Although from his punctuation it is an apology, and nothing more or less, still they could not make the distinction, or would not, and he has been humiliated by doing so, and then they refused him admittance, since which some of his confederates have taken upon themselves to change the punctuation.

Rev. J. Walter Dickson, from our County, has charge of the Marion Street Methodist Church at this place, which has a large and intelligent congregation. He is very highly appreciated, and gives universal satisfaction.

The last week has been a gala one for Columbia in the theatre point of view, and Katie Putnam has been greeted with the greatest enthusiasm, on account of her grace, beauty and charming acting. She won the affections of all, even those of one of Anderson's old bachelors, whose heart has always been considered adamant.

J. L. O.

THE KNOXVILLE CONVENTION.

Harmonious Meeting and United Action.

Anderson the Next Place of Meeting.

The railroad convention in aid of the Blue Ridge Railroad was held in Knoxville, Tenn., according to previous appointment. Delegates from South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee were present, and the meeting was called to order on Thursday last, 20th instant, by Col. J. W. Gant, President of the Knoxville Board of Trade, who gave the delegates a cordial welcome and formally tendered their hall for the use of the convention.

Col. Alfred Caldwell, in behalf of the citizens of Knoxville, extended a warm greeting to the convention, and spoke of the advantages that would accrue to East Tennessee, North Georgia and Western Carolina by the completion of the Blue Ridge Railroad. With the road in operation, by the rivifying influences of trade, that vast mineral belt extending from Virginia to Alabama would be opened to the world, and a large section, now dormant and unproductive, would become a mine of wealth. He congratulated the delegates on the interest manifested in South Carolina and Georgia, and assured them that Tennessee would lend a helping hand to bind our mountain section with their broad fields and fertile savannas.

A committee on permanent organization was appointed to select officers for the convention, and reported as follows: Robert A. Thompson, of South Carolina, President, and Geo. W. Coleman, of Tennessee, Secretaries.

In taking the chair, Mr. Thompson said that the discussion of the question should be limited to the setting forth of such action as the convention might deem fit after mature deliberation. It was the desire of the people of South Carolina to see the road completed, and after hearing, through the press and otherwise, that an effort would be made to complete the Blue Ridge Railroad, they thought it their interest as it was certainly their pleasure to aid in the endeavor.

A letter was read from Dr. Wm. Morrow, President of the Knoxville and Charleston Railroad, stating a plan whereby that road could be extended to the State line at a less outlay than ever before in the history of building railroads, and that no such opportunity to get an important railroad connection for an insignificant outlay of money has ever been offered any people. His plan is to employ the convicts of the State Penitentiary, whose labor will be furnished to grade the road, provided they can secure cash subscriptions, on the part of Blount and Knox counties, for clothing, feeding and guarding convicts. The completion of the road to the State line would at once force a Southern connection.

A letter was also read from Gen. J. W. Harrison, of South Carolina, stating his inability to be present, and breathing words of encouragement at the ultimate success of the route, notwithstanding the impoverished condition of the country, and favoring an appeal for government aid. After stating the amount of work done, which forbids the idea of abandonment and failure, and the fact that the bondholders will soon be in a condition to unite in some practicable scheme for once more commencing the work, he suggested that a delegation from the Knoxville and Charleston Railroad should meet the bondholders and others for a free conference as to the best mode of organizing a new company. He favored a frank and manly appeal to Congress for aid in some shape, and urged that the necessities of the country demanded more direct, cheaper and speedier transit from the West to the Atlantic seaboard. An enlightened system of internal improvements would lift up the weight now resting upon every class of the people, give employment to the needy, and leave works completed which, notwithstanding the cost, would be an equivalent for the expenditure.

Letters were also read from Prof. C. D. Smith and Dr. W. L. Love, of North Carolina, and all the letters were referred to a special committee to report upon the subject matter therein contained.

At the evening session, speeches were given by Col. E. M. Rucker, Capt. A. S. Edwin, of Athens, Ga., and Col. W. G. McAdoor offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this convention pledge its influence and earnest execution to push forward the enterprise of the building and equipment of the entire line from Knoxville to Wauhatchie at the earliest practicable period.

Col. E. M. Rucker, being called upon, spoke of the immense advantages that would ensue from the completion of the Blue Ridge Railroad to the territory through which it passed, as well as the entire States that would be united. He alluded to the scarcity of money in the country, but while that was true, the difficulties in the way of the enterprise were exaggerated, and the money required would not be taken out of the country, but expended in our midst, as it were.

With the proposed line in operation, a very large area would be made tributary that, until then, would not only be unremunerative, but actually drains the

territory tributary to it, if we would concentrate trade in the Southern cities. St. Louis and Cincinnati were stretching out their iron arms and drawing commerce to their marts. It seemed to the friends of the road south of the mountains that Knoxville and East Tennessee would be greatly benefited by its completion; the people of Georgia and South Carolina were dependent upon the West for the necessary supplies of life, and they wanted shorter lines in order to lessen freights. In addition, the trade of western North Carolina would become tributary to Knoxville, and with increased facilities this would be enhanced from year to year. Railroads induce immigration to those sections they traversed, and with new lines opening, the advantages of the beautiful section would be brought to the attention of thousands who were looking for homes in an equable climate, which would become the resort alike of those fleeing from the rigors of northern winters or the melting heat of more southern latitudes.

J. L. O.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The delegates to the railroad convention met at two o'clock, President Thompson in the chair.

Col. Fleming, from the committee to whom was referred sundry papers, presented the following report:

Mr. President: Your committee on resolutions beg leave to submit the following as their report: The importance of the grand project of the Blue Ridge, or Rabun Gap Railroad enterprise—whose history, present condition and possibilities of completion we have met to consider, has long been known to the people represented in this convention to require an elaborate presentation at this time. A whole generation has passed away since it had its origin, and now we are gathered here, when railway transportation by steam-power was yet in its earliest stage of development, yet this road was marked out by some of the most sagacious of our fathers, and the "grand iron highway from Cincinnati to Charleston," and a great Convention, comprising delegates from nine States, which met in 1838, just as we have met now, to consider the importance of the direct connection of the Northwest with the Atlantic seaboard, and the importance of public project in our country. But, as successively stated in 1838 by ex-President Harrison, "this great project, supported by the people of the United States, is now owing in a great measure to the terrible financial embarrassment which, shortly after its inception, swept over the country, has been wholly abandoned. But it was far from barren in its practical results. The roads from Branchville to Columbia, from Columbia to Charlotte, from Charlotte to New Orleans, and from New Orleans to Savannah, and the several roads branching out from Cincinnati and Louisville to the country, the increased products which furnish valuable and permanent local business for the line."

And to the methods by which, in the language of the convention resolution, "The necessary amount of money to be raised," your committee have no very specific suggestion to make. Nevertheless, the course of affairs is by no means encouraging, as a mere casual observer of passing events may have supposed. It has been well understood by the public that for years the affairs of the Southern States have been in a state of hopeless complication, while on the Tennessee side the work has been long suspended and the road has been in the hands of the delinquent to the State. But now, even out of the wrecks of bankruptcy, springs the hope of early resuscitation. The plan of affairs is by no means encouraging, as a mere casual observer of passing events may have supposed. 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